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The Agriculturist.

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Agriculture.

Sugar Beet and Amber Cane.

Little has been said, lately, about Sugar Beet and Amber Sugar Cane culture. It is to be hoped that the efforts of the Department of Agriculture in this Province to induce, by importing the best Beet Seed, the farmers of New Brunswick to cultivate the sacharine root, will be followed by some results. We see it stated that the prospects of the beet crop are very good in the neighboring State. The Maine Beet Sugar Company have contracts for 1,250 acres in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and a very large yield is expected. Elaborate and costly machinery, capable of working 100 tons of beets per day, has been purchased in Germany, and will arrive in good time before the manufacture of sugar commences about the first of October.

What about the Amber Cane culture? The wet weather and frosts in early part of the season were rather against it in this vicinity, but it is to be hoped that enough will be raised to show that it may be grown here with success.

Mr. Alfred Whitehead, President of the New Brunswick Sugar Cane Company, is now on a visit to Minnesota, where the cane is most successfully cultivated. He will, no doubt, give on his return, to those who are interested in the matter, the benefit of his observations on the manner of harvesting the cane there.

A Sussex Farmer's Idea of Profitable Farming.

A correspondent giving the initials "P. F.," and hailing from Sussex Vale, N. B., writes to the *Farmer's Advocate* on farming for profit. He says:—

Experience shows us that the best and surest way to make money from farming is by selling the products of the farms in fattened meat, yet more is required than fattened meat.—Neither the farmer nor any other man can live by that exclusively. He must have wheat, and for this purpose he must make manure to renovate the wornout land and restore its fertility, and this can be best obtained by raising turnips for stall-feeding. As manure depends for its efficacy on the rich feed of the cattle, turnip feeding is the necessity of the farm.—Every one knows that *raw* or green manure does not possess the requisite constituents for a rich fertilizer without fermentation, and to obtain this it is necessary to turn the manure heap as soon as the frost leaves. Our farmers are now turning their attention to raising their potato crops on sod in order to save the manure for the turnip crops. The most obstructive difficulty in turnip-raising is the fly, and this can be greatly remedied by sowing guano or superphosphate, well pulverized, along with the seed, which stimulates its germination and growth so that the plant is soon to strong for the attacks of its enemy. Turnip-sowing is quite a new art in agriculture. It was not till about the year of the battle of Waterloo that Caley first sowed turnip seed in drills on the banks of the Tweed, on the border of Scotland. It was said at the time that he was too fast.

It is folly to keep old sheep. They should be turned off to the butcher while they are in their prime. It does not take half as much to fatten them. When they get old and thin in order to put them in condition to slaughter, the whole structure must be rebuilt. Four sets of lambs are all any ewe should bear; this will bring her to five years, and this is an age when, with little extra care, she will round up to a full carcass. Exceptions may be made when the breed is scarce, and the blood is more valuable than anything else.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

Prof. Mayer of Boston recently put a soft shelled potato bug larva into carbonic acid for three days and then boxed it up and sent it to Europe for a zoological specimen. Nothing daunted by the fifteen days journey under such discouraging circumstances, when it reached the old country the bug was found able to eat potato vine as cheerfully as ever.

The matter of friction in farm machinery is really a serious one to the owners and yet we suppose the owner of farm machinery will go on reaping rich rewards year by year, from the useless wear and tear of machinery, and which they really do not discover, simply because the majority of our farmers depend upon borrowing an agricultural paper, rather than to buy one, and thus often lose more in one day than would pay for a good paper for five years.—*Prairie Farmer.*

Canada Wheat for Antwerp.

The Montreal *Gazette* says:—"A cargo of Canada White Winter Wheat has been purchased in this city for shipment direct to Antwerp, at $1.10, and further inquiries were made for No. 2 Canada Spring on Continental account. Other orders for wheat have been received here from Antwerp grain firms, and the probabilities are that this new export trade will soon develop itself into one of considerable importance to Canada. Antwerp ranks second only to Havre as a large Continental importer of grain, and Bordeaux third. Between July 27th, 1878, and May 2nd, this year, New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore shipped to Antwerp 2,300,000 bushels of wheat, and to Havre over 3,000,000 bushels. We are glad to see our exporters turning their attention to the Continental trade as well as to that with Great Britain, for there can be little doubt but that we have been somewhat remiss in allowing our neighbors to monopolize the former entirely, although we trust lost time may yet be made up."

Setting Strawberries in Autumn.

Although spring is the best time generally for transplanting strawberry plants, yet it often becomes desirable to do the work later in the season. The plants, if set in August, make some growth, and obtain a good foothold before winter. One of the difficulties with transplanting later is the liability to be thrown out by frost. The work will succeed well in September if the following precautions are observed: Procure strong plants of the same season's growth, with abundant roots, and set in a rich deep and mellow soil which has a good surface and bottom drainage; spread the roots out well like an umbrella, which will prevent heaving out better than if crowded together; if the soil is dry, settle it about the roots with water when the hole is partly filled; mulch with manure, and keep the surface well protected with such a mulching in winter, taking care not to cover the crowns of the plants. If the soil is heavy or clayey, make it slightly convex about the plants, and press it firmly with the foot, leaving a smooth surface to throw off the water of rains.

Age of a Sheep.

The first year a sheep's front teeth are eight in number, and are all of equal size. The second year the two middle shed out and are replaced by two much larger than the others. The third year two very small teeth appear, one on either side of the eight. At the end of the fourth year there are six large teeth. The fifth year all the front teeth are large. The sixth year all begin to show signs of wear.

The average yield of wheat per acre is 5½ bushels in Russia, 12 in the United States, 12½ in Austria, 13 to 15 in Canada, 16½ in France, and 29½ in Great Britain. In the United States the average yield might easily be doubled, but the cheapness of the land, the use of machinery, and the cost of fertilizers, makes it cheaper to cultivate larger areas rather than to work for large averages.

A Maine farmer says: Were I to plant an orchard and had two locations, one in a valley surrounded by hills except on the south side, and the other a high elevation exposed to high winds, I would choose the latter in preference to the former. The great object is to keep back the blooming as long as possible, and this can be done best in northern exposures without shelter.

FALL FALLOWING.—Experience proves, every season, the wisdom of ploughing as much as possible for spring sowing. Early fall ploughing has the benefit of fallowing to some extent, and the earlier it is begun the more advantages are derived from it; it is more beneficial on heavy land than on light, but light land cannot fail to be improved by it.

DRY HAY FOR COWS IN SUMMER.—I have realized beneficial retults from giving the cows an occasional feed of dry hay in the morning, before turning them away to pasture for the day. Especially is it beneficial in fly time, and during warm, wet weather, when grass is largely filled with water or juices, with less solid nutriment.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

M. B. Bateham advises to wash grapevines with a weak solution of carbolic soap, as helping to counteract the work of the steel-blue beetle on the buds, and also as having a tendency to kill off the seeds or sprouts of mildew which exist on the bark and buds of the vines during the winter season.

American and English Farming.

The last number of the London *Economist* gives an interesting, and, as it would seem, very careful comparison between farming in England and farming in America. In England, one acre yields on an average thirty bushels of wheat, while in America it yields on an average only thirteen. The American farmer must, consequently, cultivate two and a half acres in order to produce the same quantity of wheat as the English farmer raises on one acre. How is it then, the paper asks, that the American farmer can, nevertheless, not only compete with the English farmer, but even beat him in his own market? The answer which first presents itself to this question is the enormous difference of rent in England and America, but this difference is, as the paper shows, nearly, if not altogether obliterated, by the cost of transportation from the Western fields to the English market. The real advantage which the American farmer has over the English lies in the cheapness of the cultivation. While the American soil needs little, if any manure at all, in order to yield an average harvest year after year, the English farmer must apply a heavy quantity of artificial manure to the soil every year, if he simply expects to have an average yield, and a similar cheapness reappears at nearly every point of the cultivation, excepting, perhaps, only that of labor. In the settlements along the Red River in Minnesota, a plow may be run through the soft, alluvial soil for miles in a straight line without encountering a stone, a tree or a hill, a feature to which England does not offer the faintest approach. So it is with our Canadian prairies of our great North-west.—*Factory and Farm.*

How to Manage Celery.

Set celery in shallow furrows, drawn four feet apart by a light plow. The plants should be six inches apart in the row, and pains should be taken to have the soil pressed firmly about the lower part of the root. If the ground is thoroughly moistened at the time of planting, there is no occasion for shading the plants. All that is necessary in the way of culture for some time after transplanting is to keep the soil well stirred between the rows. When the plants have attained a height of from ten to fifteen inches, commence the operation of "earthing up." The soil is first thoroughly loosened upon either side of the rows; then as all the leaves of each plant are gathered together held in an upright position, the soil is gradually drawn around it to the height of several inches. The operation is very simple yet, like everywhere else, requires some experience before it can be skillfully done. In our own practice we have found that three men, or two men and a boy, working together, perform the work in the cheapest and best manner, one man standing upon each side of the row, and with a hoe drawing the earth about the plants, which are held in proper position by the third. As the celery grows, more earth is from time to time drawn up around it. It is not necessary to hoe the plants after the first operation. The only precautions are, not to earth up too much at a time, and to be sure that the earth is fine and not lumpy or cloddy. Care should also be exercised to prevent any earth from getting between the stems of outer and inner leaves.—*Diario Rural.*

A New Breed of Geese.

A prominent writer in one of the foreign journals devoted to agricultural interests, strongly recommends the introduction of the Japanese goose into poultry yards. From the description given of this breed, it is only reasonable to think that they are as well suited to our wants as to those of our British friends who favor the change. This goose is as nearly beautiful in appearance as it is possible for a goose to be; it is equally at home on land or water, and its movements are graceful and swan-like. They withstand changes of climate even better than our own domesticated geese, and can be kept without shelter even in the most severe winter season. The Japanese goose is much more prolific than the ordinary breeds, and commences laying in mid-winter, rarely showing any inclination to sit before June or July, which of course renders it necessary to hatch their eggs under ordinary fowls of some heavy breed. The Cochin-China has been found best adapted to this purpose. As regards food, these birds are by no means fastidious, and the yield of feathers and down is described as something wonderful to see.—*Ex.*

The Maine Beet Sugar Co. will put in this year additional machinery, so as to be prepared to work 100 tons of beets per day, during the next manufacturing season.

Saving Our Own Seed.

It is somewhat trying to the feelings of a tidy farmer to see a thrifty growth of white weed waving luxuriantly over a neighboring tract of mowing ground adjacent to his own, where none was ever known to grow before.

Two years ago, this field was seeded to grass without grain, and to-day the ox-eye daisy is as uniformly scattered over the field as the grass itself, although not so thickly as yet. It is impossible that this could have been introduced in this case in any other way than with the grass seed used. It is in just this way that many of our noxious weeds and plants have been scattered far over the land.

Now how are we to find a remedy for this? We know of none, in neighborhoods which are free from it, but to entirely eschew the use of seed bought from our markets. This can be done. We can raise our own grass seed cheaper than we can buy it, and know that it is clean from all noxious plants. In an experience of thirty-five years of farming, we have never bought a bushel of grass seed.

Select your herdsgrass plot, not over stout, but well headed; let it stand until the heads attain a yellowish cast, then reap with a sickle just low enough to take all the heads; lay the bunches at the side of the plot upon the mown field, in gavels; mow the bottom, which comprises the main bulk, and hay it at once. Turn the gavels occasionally so as to expose the upper and under sides alike. In a few days the hulls will begin to start from the stem at the the bare touch; then care must be taken that it does not waste. When just right, the hull and seed can be whipped off upon the inside of a hogshead in the field, in sufficient quantity to fill a barrel in a very short time. A barrel of hulls and seed, well trodden down, will usually yield from four to five pecks of clean seed. Of course, if the seed does not form well, there will not be so much.

Select a clean piece of clover, well headed but not very stout; mow it when the seed is ripe, and let it lay in the swath until the hull starts easily, turning it occasionally after it is cut. When the hull is sufficiently loose, carry it to the barn and thrash off the heads. Both clover and herdsgrass seed can be sown in the hull as evenly and well as when cleaned, by one who is used to it.

So, also, our garden and other seeds can be raised much cheaper than we can buy them; besides the advantage attained of knowing what we are using, when we produce our own.—*New Eng. Farmer.*

KILLING COLORADO BEETLES.—A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* say:—

Take a teaspoonful of Paris green and gill of plaster to three gallons of water. My neighbor, who cultivates eighty acres, uses five tablespoonfuls of green and a gallon of plaster to a barrel of water. I had seventy-one rows, and treated thirty of them with a tablespoonful of poison in three gallons of water on Saturday. This neighbor sent me word on Sunday to use the plaster. I did so on Monday. Tuesday I had to go over the first thirty rows again. Those where the plaster was used were three days afterwards much greener and taller, and still show a better growth and color. This I think much the cheapest and best management for large vines. For small ones I take a fruit can, punch holes in the bottom, nail a lath to the inside of the can for a handle, and sprinkle the Paris green with fifty, sixty or even seventy times its bulk of plaster. If I can do this while the dew is on I do so; if not I put it on when the vines are dry, only stopping for a heavy wind. An active man can poison five or six acres a day in this way in a field of small vines.—*South St. Louis, Mo.*

A dairyman recommends putting down butter in a stone jar and covering with brine. He then puts the jar in a box a little larger than the jar itself, and covered it on all sides with salt an inch or two in thickness. He claims that the butter thus kept is better when six months old than when first put down.

A Jersey cow weighing 800 pounds will give 35 pounds of butter to 100 pounds of live weight; while a Holstein cow, weighing 1300 pounds, will give 36 pounds of butter to 100 pounds of live weight, and 674 pounds of milk to 100 pounds of live weight.—*American Agriculturist.*

In England, sheep of the Cotswold long-wool breed have been known to reach the enormous weight of eighty-four pounds per quarter, or 366 pounds the carcass, while fleeces weighing above twenty pounds are not uncommon.

Rural Ornamentation.

There is a great deal of truth—truth which our farmers would do well to receive, in what "Thornley," a correspondent of the *New England Farmer* says on the subject of "Rural ornamentation:—

Probably no one thing affects more the happiness, or has more influence over the lives of those who live in rural districts, than the degree or character of embellishment with which they surround their dwellings. And yet no subject has greater neglect, or more careless treatment at the hands of those who ought to be most interested in it, than this. Born and reared to a life of toil and labor, apart from the common centres of habitation, and deprived to a large extent of the pleasure derived from an acquaintance with the works and products of art and science, it would seem that country people would naturally imbibe a strong and earnest desire to cultivate the beautiful in nature, and adorn their houses with her ample and pleasing charms. With nature as a guide, and our native taste and ingenuity as aids, great improvements in this line can be accomplished if only the proper interest is taken, and the results of labor necessarily expended, rightly valued.

And right here, no doubt, is one of the principal causes why we see no more attention given to beautifying the surroundings of country residences. Farmers and rural dwellers fail, not, I think, from a lack of natural taste, but from a neglect to cultivate the same, to appreciate the influence on the lives of themselves and families which such objects of beauty and attraction as nicely-kept lawns, growing flowers, and good trees, etc., unquestionably have. The work of such improvements in embellishing the earth is of a particular and fine character, and its results and influence upon the minds of all those engaged in or benefited by it, are of an ennobling, refining, and elevating nature. Those who live by farming come in contact with much that is displeasing and coarse in its effect, and the pleasures derived from observation of beautiful surroundings compensates for this disadvantage, and also affords entertainment and instruction in their isolation from others of mankind. The home is thus rendered more pleasant and attractive, and were matters of this kind given more attention, it is safe to predict that the young people of the family would be far less inclined to quit the farm for other scenes, an inclination now prevalent among young men and women of our country homes to a remarkable and damaging degree. Young people very properly enjoy out-of-door exercises, but they seek and desire the amusing and interesting features of landscape, just as they do similar characteristics within doors, and when wanting about their home they look for these elsewhere. This becomes finally such a habit of custom, that, when any entertainment for the mind is wanted, they instinctively turn from home to find it. What wonder, then, that the young men and women leave the farm as early as possible for town life!

I believe the lawns, the flower beds, the ornamental shrubbery, etc., should be considered as important objects of attention as the corn-field, meadow or orchard. That there is no time aside from that required by the ordinary farm labor to attend to them I deny, and hold that any and all time given to the improvement of our farm house lots or yards will always be well repaid in the enjoyment to be derived from such improvements. Nothing can make home more attractive to all its inmates, next to the love that makes home, than beautiful door-yards, and nothing to my mind is more beautiful about a place than a clean, bright lawn, tastefully dotted with flowers and shrubs, and set with well assorted shade and ornamental trees. This, every farm can and should have. The first cost and labor of arranging it is not necessarily large, and once well established the labor involved in its care is very slight, and withal pleasant, if rightly applied.

With such surroundings children cannot but love home, the housekeeper, the mother and wife, must always feel that she has a home well worth keeping, and the farmer when he returns after his day's labor can but rejoice in the appearance of such attractions His lot will seem much brighter, his calling dignified and ennobled, for he not only causes the earth to fructify with grain and products for food, but helps to beautify her surface in a way that gives himself and all his family a sure and honest pleasure while they live, and serves to bless his posterity after him.

Salt is an excellent manure for strawberry-plants after the berries have been picked. If applied before that time it causes such a growth of foliage as to prevent the berries from ripening.

Dignity of Labor.

The *Maine Farmer* last week had an article on the "Dignity of Labor," in which the editor vindicates the calling of the farmer, and deplores the general tendency of young men to look down upon manuel labor as degrading and to rush into the overstocked, and so called learned and genteel professions. It is a well-worn theme, but the "dignity of labor" cannot well be too persistently insisted upon. It is as we said last week, one of the difficulties of business, that too many men who might make good farmers if they turned their energies in the direction of tilling the soil, prefer trying to make, what they mistakenly suppose to be a more respectable living, by going into trade, into any business in short, on which they can keep white hands, and a ruffled white shirt front. The *Farmer* says:—

"The dignity of labor in any age or in any country, is in exact proportion to the civilization of such age or country. The Greeks and Romans in their palmy days fully recognized the dignity of labor. Their orators, poets, and other great men, or many of them, were practical agriculturists, and by their example and influence stimulated others to engage in like pursuits. But in the long darkness of the Gothic night which followed, war and the chase were regarded as the only pursuits befitting the high born, and during those dark days, agriculture and every other branch of human industry languished. Butchery, rapine and plunder engaged their attention for a part of the time, and during the remainder, the pursuit of a hare or deer with horses, hounds and menials, were the only occupations in which those of "gentle blood" could or would engage. Agriculture was left to the serfs who had few incentives to labor since they could not enjoy the fruits of their toil.

But the feudal age with its barbaric pomp and splendor, at length passed away, and the plow, the emblem of peace and plenty, has overturned the mouldering relics of baronial pride. The cultivator of the soil was no longer a beast of burden. By degrees his occupation has advanced from a mere handicraft to a profession, calling for the application of talent and of scientific principles, and now the profession of agriculture stands even with all professions, both in importance and dignity. While great advances in this direction have been made in the old world, and labor is everywhere asserting its dignity and power, there are still certain privileged classes who regard manual labor as degrading. There are still traces of this same absurd and unmanly prejudice in our own country, which we would like to see eradicated. We would like to see professional men and merchants educate their sons to manual labor; to become producers instead of consumers, but how few there are who do it. And we have known instances where the farmers themselves recreant to the dignity of their calling, have exhibited an itching desire to save their own sons from a life of labor by educating them for some of the so called learned professions.

In the general mania to escape a life of manual labor, every profession is overstocked. We have ten times as many lawyers, and ten times as many doctors, and we may add ten times as many ministers as we need, and the various schools are grinding out and adding to this already vast army of idlers, thousands upon thousands every year. The increase of consumers over producers, is one of the principal causes of the late depression in business and consequent hard times. During the flush days thousands left the farms and hurried to the cities with the hope of making rapid fortunes, and perhaps one in a hundred did that, while the ninety and nine failed. An encouraging sign of the times is that these same persons grown wiser from their failures, are going back to the farms. Politics too supports a large number of non-producers, and its every avenue to preferment is choked with eager votaries, nine-tenths of whom must be entirely disappointed, and the fortunate few at the next turn of the political wheel will be cast upon the world, out of business, and with habits formed which would make any kind of manual labor or business disagreeable.

We would not create prejudice against the learned professions, nor against any honest calling. The lawyer is a necessary evil as long as vice and wrong doing exist, and the doctor cannot be dispensed with as long as we suffer from the ills to which flesh is heir. The merchant is a co-worker with the farmer and essential to him. What we claim is, that neither the members, of the learned professions, nor the merchants, nor any other class, have any claim to a higher, social position, than the farmer. They are not to be looked up to by the great producing class as a superior or privileged caste; by no manner of means. And in selecting men for office, there is no reason why they should almost invariably be taken from the non-producing class. Why should not the producers who are in the majority, select true men from their own class—men on whose honesty and judgement they can safely rely? We need more producers in Congress and more in the State Legislatures. A man brought up on a farm or to a trade, and has had to bestir himself to provide for the wants of a family may perceive more clearly, discriminate more keenly, and seize on the right means more readily and decisively, than he who has accumulated vast stores of book learning without practical experience. Let farmers and farmers' sons only assert and maintain the dignity of their calling, and no man, nor class of men will dare to gainsay it.

How to Top-dress.

The following practical remarks on the best mode of top-dressing are made by a correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*:—

The common practice is to mow meadows every year without returning any fertilizer until again plowed for a grain crop. Low lands that receive the wash from uplands will endure such usage, but land that is not very rich, and does not receive any wash from other lands, will show signs of weakness after mowing three or four times. Such meadows should receive careful attention, especially if it is desired to keep them permanently in grass, which is often the case. My plan is to top-dress such meadows, or pastures, in this way: If meadow, as soon as the hay crop is removed, I apply good, well rotted yard manure liberally (according to character of soil,) and harrow thoroughly with a smoothing harrow. If bare spots occur, I apply seed and harrow it in with the manure. I load the harrow sufficiently to grind the manure finer at every time going over. If the harrow contains the requisite number of teeth, about three strokes will make a good job. I do not stint the manure or seed, as it is repaid in the end. In this way I can nearly or quite hide from view 20 to 30 two-horse loads of manure, and the wonder will be where all has gone. If no smoothing harrow can be obtained, use the common harrow once over, and then use a brush until the manure is ground into the grass roots, and if a heavy roller is at hand, roll down to finish. This will pack the seed and manure firmly into the surface, and when the first showers come the roots of grass will revive, and at every shower after the growth will increase. By winter a good protection will be afforded. The next spring the young grass from seed sown will cover the bare spots of the former year, and a good crop can be relied on.

If the land was quite thin when laid by, a repetition of two or three seasons will form a permanent sod and a perfect protection from the sun's heat and from extreme freezing, and the land will rapidly recuperate under this treatment. I know some will say the expense is too great, and too much labor is involved, but it is better than to let the land run down and become worthless. Certain things must be observed to insure success; surplus water must be drawn off entirely. Do not try this plan and condemn it unless the land is dry and kept dry, and if it is meadow set the machine high in mowing, and do not go over with a horse rake more than to rake into windrows. I seldom go over to glean the little left after the first raking. Only on a firm, thick set turf, should a rake be used more than once. The little that is left will pay better by its aid in the protection necessary to the newly bared roots. I have learned many lessons of patience and endurance from doing thorough work in all farm operations, hence I advise my readers not to weary if they would succeed.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.—The constitution of the Royal British Commission appointed to inquire into the causes of agricultural depression is not likely to satisfy tenant farmers, however agreeable to landlords. So far as party politics is concerned, the composition of the Commission seems fair enough. The names include some genuine representatives of the agricultural interest, whose services are likely to be valuable, but there is a disappointing omission of the Scotch tenant farmer element. The names of Mr. Barclay and Mr. C. S. Read are conspicuous by their absence; and it is no less disappointing to find that the name of the Marquis of Huntly, who took the initiative in bringing the question before Parliament, has no place in the list of Commissioners. Unless these glaring omissions can yet be remedied, the Commission is by no means likely to have the confidence of tenant farmers, for whose benefit it was ostensibly formed.